



VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

FAX COVER SHEET

To: Renata Hesse
Organization: U.S. Dept Justice - Antitrust Div.
FAX Number: (202) 616-9937 Phone Number: () _____

Local _____ Long Distance X Number of Pages including this cover sheet: 2

From: Delegate Watkins M. Abbitt Jr
Room Number: 804 Telephone Number: (804) 698-1059

Comments: _____

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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

WATKINS M. ABBITT, JR.
POST OFFICE BOX 663
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA 24522

FIFTY-NINTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
LABOR AND COMMERCE (CO-CHAIR)
GENERAL LAWS
TRANSPORTATION
MINING AND MINERAL RESOURCES

January 23, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
U. S. Department of Justice
601 D Street N.W. #1200
Washington, D.C. 20530
By Facsimile: (202) 616-9937

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As the State Delegate from the 59th House District in Virginia, I am writing to encourage you to approve the settlement agreement of the United States v. Microsoft.

Virginia has been fortunate to attract a diverse and wide-ranging number of technology firms over the past 10 years, and with those firms choosing to come here, we have ensured our area's continued growth and future prosperity.

Being a technology -friendly state put Virginia on the map with the emerging IT industry in the 1990s and as IT flourished, our state reaped benefits as well. We embraced the new economy and it responded. The government should not be an inhibitor, but an enabler of consumers, entrepreneurs, and the marketplace.

Technology empowers individuals, both here in the Commonwealth and, of course, beyond our borders. It gives individuals opportunities to participate in an economy which they may never have thought possible. It opens the door to the opportunity for so many who may have never have gotten the knock on the door in the past. Many women in business are maximizing the power of the IT economy with their thoughts and ideas, and many children who may have gotten left behind are empowered with the learning and teaching potential of the Internet.

More than half of all Internet traffic travels through Virginia. The proposed settlement is tough, yet reasonable, and a valuable tool in bringing stability back to our economy. It is my hope that the Court will approve the proposed settlement between Microsoft and nine plaintiffs in the anti-trust case against it, including the federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. Abbitt", written over a horizontal line.

Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr.

DISTRICT: (804) 352-2880 • RICHMOND: (804) 688-1059

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